BUILDING ON TRADITION



LYME ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

NEW ENGLAND'S FINE ARTS COLLEGE

Cover:
Glenn Olsen
Anatomy III



Springtime in Connecticut
12" x 16"
Oil on canvas
Eric Jacobsen '96

A truly unique mission is the single most important fact about the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts. The College is the only educational institution in the nation exclusively dedicated to the traditional disciplines in art, providing a classical and formal education in the principles, history, techniques, and critical thought processes which have shaped our society from the Renaissance to the present.

THE MISSION

The Lyme Academy of Fine Arts was founded in 1976 by nationally renowned sculptor Elisabeth Gordon Chandler and a group of artists dedicated to the belief that in order to be a serious fine artist one must study the classical traditions of painting and sculpture which produced the Master Artists from Michelangelo to Picasso. It was a tumultuous time in the American art world — a time of self-expression not self-discipline, a time when innovation meant disregarding all that had come before. Art schools around the country were turning away from an education based on the classical fundamentals. Such fundamental disciplines as Life Drawing and Anatomy were given scant attention in the education of the artist.

From the start, students from BFA and MFA programs across the country sought out the Lyme Academy, looking for the professional education they had missed and recognizing that success would, in part, depend on their having learned the fundamentals of drawing, painting, and sculpture.

Today, the Lyme Academy continues to be the only accredited school of its kind in the country and as such plays a critical role in influencing the future of the fine arts. Thus, the mission of the Lyme Academy is to provide more than excellence in studio training and technique. The Academy seeks to encourage excellence in intellectual pursuits and critical discourse as well.

The Lyme Academy provides a unique educational opportunity for the fine artist which embraces the whole world of ideas and human experience through studies in history, mathematics, science, the social sciences, and philosophy which establish the intellectual, imaginative, and creative foundation for idea and meaning in art.

In less than 25 years, the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts has grown from a small community art school to a BFA degree granting college fully licensed and accredited by the State of Connecticut and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). In 1998, the Lyme Academy achieved candidacy status toward full accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Since its 1995 BFA accreditation, enrollment at the Academy has increased at an average annual rate of 8.8%, with full-time enrollment (FTE) increasing at 13.9% annually. Students currently enrolled at the Lyme Academy come from fourteen states in addition to Connecticut: California, Rhode Island, New York, Vermont, Georgia, South Dakota, Massachusetts, Florida, New Jersey, Idaho, Kansas, Illinois, Oregon, and Pennsylvania. The Academy has attracted students from Canada, Russia, Germany, and Sweden and is currently exploring an International Study Program.

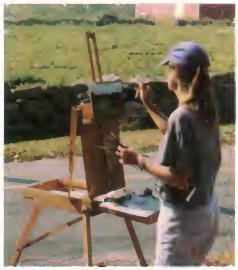
THE COLLEGE: An American Success Story

This increased enrollment and geographic diversity result from the College's growing reputation as one of the leading art schools in the country. World renowned maritime artist John Stobart has said of the school, *"In many ways the Lyme Academy is better than the Royal Academy schools in Britain, and it is without question one of the finest art schools in America."*

The tree-lined entrance to the Lyme Academy's Brundage Commons, where students meet for lunch and conversation, connects to the Sculpture and Painting studios and the Krieble Library.



A Lyme Academy student continues the tradition of en plein air painting.





The Annual National Sculpture Competition is sponsored each year by the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and the National Sculpture Society. In 1998, the Lyme Academy was proud to host the 20th National Sculpture Competition.

The Academy has earned its reputation by offering a rigorous and disciplined curriculum that is unique in its focus on the fundamental classical traditions of the fine arts and taught by a highly qualified and professional faculty of distinguished master teacher/artists. The Lyme Academy provides an education which thoroughly explores and addresses key principles fundamental to the visual arts. The curriculum at the Academy includes the study of line, space, form, color, and perspective as elements of drawing, painting, and sculpture; while methods and materials embrace both historic techniques such as egg tempera and grinding pigment, and contemporary methods such as acrylic/resin casting. As one faculty member has said, "What is remarkable is the strength and energy on the part of these students in pursuit of quality in performance and interpretation. While they are learning their craft and understanding the most fundamental observable aspects of the visual world, they are also becoming aware of the vast opportunity to move with authority and momentum in directions of their own choosing, as they must."

It is no wonder that the New York Times recently stated: "*...many in the art world believe the (Lyme) Academy has contributed to the renaissance of representational art.*" A brief look at recent accomplishments of LAFA students and alumni gives testimony to the success of the Academy's program.

The Copley Society of Boston, the oldest art association in America, hosts an annual All New England Juried Student Exhibition representing talented students from ten to fifteen institutions, among them New England's leading art colleges and departments — from Boston University to the Rhode Island School of Design. The most distinguished award at the annual Copley Exhibition is the Robert Brooks Memorial Scholarship.

Students from the Lyme Academy have won the coveted Brooks Award three of the last four years.

RECENT AWARDS: A Selected List

- 1998 COPLEY EXHIBITION
 Mark G. McKee '98, Robert Brooks Memorial Scholarship
 Crista Pisano '99, Honorable Mention
 Raul Chavez '98, Honorable Mention
- 1997 COPLEY EXHIBITION
 Hollis Dunlap '99, Robert Brooks Memorial Scholarship
- 1995 COPLEY EXHIBITION
 Eric Jacobsen '95, Robert Brooks Memorial Scholarship



DAVID
28" x 36"
Oil on canvas
Mark G. McKee '98

In New York, the competition is even more intense, with twenty to twenty-five institutions competing annually in the National Arts Club Juried Exhibition. Participating institutions include the Art Students League, Columbia University, Cooper Union, N.Y.U., Parsons, Pratt, and the School of Visual Arts.

The Lyme Academy is the only participating school with students in the top four positions at the National Arts Club Juried Exhibition in each of the last three years.

- 1998 National Arts Club Juried Exhibition

 Hollis Dunlap '99, (Painting) First Prize

 Glen Steinmacher '99, (Sculpture) The Amster Award
 (Drawing) The Mora Award

- 1997 National Arts Club Juried Exhibition

 Hollis Dunlap '99, (Painting) The von Holtzbrinck Award

 Brian Moneypenny '97, (Sculpture) Award of Distinction

- 1996 National Arts Club Juried Exhibition

 Eloise Bottinelli '96, (Painting) First Prize

 Michael Viera '96, (Painting) The Slobadin Award



Carla
47" x 38"
Charcoal and conte on brown paper
Hollis Dunlap '99

The National Sculpture Society selects twelve emerging artists from a highly competitive pool to participate in a juried exhibition each year. Of the twelve artists selected by a National Sculpture Society Jury in New York City to participate in the 1998 20th Annual National Sculpture Competition, four were current students or alumni of the Lyme Academy.

Academy students have won top awards in the National Sculpture Competition four out of the last five years.

The National Society of Illustrators awarded **Raul Chavez '98** the 1998 Albert Dorn Award. This distinguished award was matched with a gift of $1000 to the Lyme Academy from the Hallmark Corporation Foundation of Kansas City.

Academy students have captured the respect and attention of world renowned maritime artist John Stobart. To encourage our alumni to continue their studies and pursue their careers as fine artists, the John Stobart Foundation makes an annual award of $5000 to a graduating senior to support their first professional year as an independent artist.

THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT AND CAMPUS LIFE

The achievements of Academy students and alumni are the result of the intensive program taught by a distinguished faculty of accomplished artists and the uniquely intimate environment the Academy provides its students. In order to guarantee that each developing artist receives individualized attention, studio classes are kept small, with no more than 15 students in most classes. A faculty/student ratio of 1 to 7 provides students with easy access to teaching artists and gives rise to frequent intellectual debate and dialogue. Students can often be found engaged in intense conversation over lunch with faculty members in the Academy's Brundage Commons.

The Lyme Academy attracts some of the most outstanding contemporary representational and figurative artists to its faculty. Taken together the twenty-five faculty members at the Lyme Academy represent 245 years of teaching experience in forty-four accredited, post-secondary institutions. Credentials for Academy faculty include teaching positions at Yale School of Art, University of Hartford School of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, State of New York University at Purchase, Parsons School of Design, University of Connecticut, Connecticut College, and Wesleyan University; as well as the Art Students League and the National Academy of Design. Let us introduce you to the five chairmen of the Academy's programs and faculty:

Academy founder and chairman of the Sculpture Department, **Professor Elisabeth Gordon Chandler** has received gold medals from the National Arts Club, American Artists Professional League, and the Allied Artists of America, to name but a few. Ms. Chandler has been commissioned twice by St. Patrick's Cathedral and her bronze portrait of Adlai Stevenson may be found at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.

Associate Professor Peter Zallinger, Chairman Painting Department, is a graduate of Yale University and studied at Boston University. Mr Zallinger has taught at Paier College of Art and has been commissioned by Yale University for two portraits for their permanent collection. His work can be found in the

permanent collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. **Professor Deane G. Keller**, Chairman of the Drawing Program, is among the most sought after Life Drawing and Anatomy teachers in the country. Educated at Yale University and in the studios of Nera Simi of Florence, Italy, Mr. Keller continues the disciplined tradition of academic drawing which was popular in the ateliers of 19th century Paris.

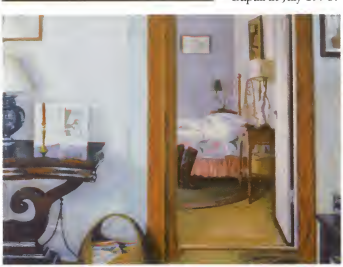
Associate Professor Joy Pepe, Chairman of the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences, holds an MA in Art History from Wesleyan University and is currently completing a PhD at Rutgers University. Highly regarded as an expert on the Italian Renaissance, Professor Pepe is frequently called upon as a guest lecturer at universities and colleges throughout New England. **Professor David Dewey**, who chairs the Faculty Council, is considered to be one of the most outstanding watercolorists in the country. A graduate of Philadelphia College of Art and Washington State University, Mr. Dewey is represented by the Tatistcheff Gallery, New York City, and has been included in numerous solo and group exhibitions. His recent book *The Watercolor Book, Materials and Techniques for Today's Artist,* was published by Watson-Guptill in July 1995.

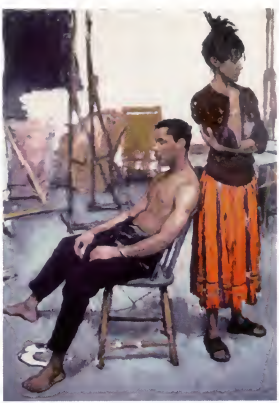
Left:
STILL LIFE
9 1/2" x 8 1/2"
Oil on board
Peter Zallinger, Chairman Painting Department

Bottom Left:
INTERIOR
26" x 30"
Oil on linen
Nancy Gladwell, Painting Department

Bottom:
SAM AND LIZA
50" x 40"
Oil on canvas
Jerry Weiss, Painting Department

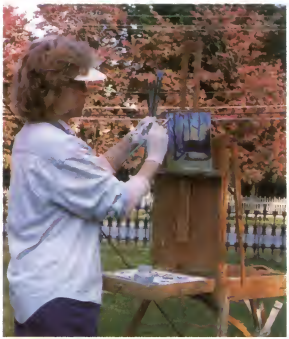












Above: Pam Thompson '99 works on a landscape painting.

Above Left: Professor Don Gale instructs a beginning sculpture class at the Lyme Academy.

Left: Professor Laci de Gerenday gives individual instruction to Open Community Program student Maggie McLaughlin in his Figure Sculpture class.

And what do the students say? Here are a few student comments taken from Fall, 1998 course evaluations: • *"...an excellent teacher as well as an incredible sculptor...gracious, generous...inspiring. (Instructor's) enthusiasm, knowledge and constructive criticism...generates a very positive environment in the studio"...• "I am thankful for this course... (instructor's) approach to drawing encourages abstraction while keeping the figure and all its meaning..."* • *"awesome!... (instructor) looks at painting in a way that is unique...I have learned new ways of seeing...demonstrations are fantastic and critiques really memorable..."* • *"I have truly enjoyed my experience as a student at the Academy. As a beginner in the study of art, I have been treated with respect.* • *"I don't know how to express my appreciation but to say that I will have lifelong enjoyment using what I have learned this semester...* • *"This class is priceless... (instructor) is a great artist and teacher!...offering good, constructive criticism...helpful, not intimidating...stimulating, consistent, and always striving for one to grow."*

The success of the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts can be found not only in its rigorous program and outstanding faculty; it is also found in its community. Situated in Old Lyme, Connecticut, the Academy grew out of a century old tradition in the visual arts. Few other areas in the country can define themselves by the impact they have had on American art. A mecca for artists at the turn of the century and now home to New England's only fine arts college, Old Lyme, Connecticut continues to play an extraordinary role in the history of American art.

THE COLLEGE AND THE COMMUNITY: A Dynamic Partnership

From its founding in 1976, Old Lyme and the surrounding communities of Southeastern Connecticut have welcomed and nurtured the development of the Lyme Academy. The State of Connecticut and the region have taken great pride in helping what began as a small community art school grow into a nationally recognized BFA degree granting college, graduating some of the most promising young painters and sculptors in America.



Left: Trustee and student in the Open Community Program, Stever Aubrey at work in the sculpture studio.

Below: LAFA alumna Brenda Heldreth '96 (at right) volunteers her time to work with promising young artists at the 1998 Midsummer Festival.





Brad Guarino '00 with the Academy's Chairman of the Board Diana Atwood Johnson (seated) and Painting Instructor Diane Aeschliman.

Pfizer, Inc. employee, bio-chemist Brad Guarino will receive his BFA degree in Painting in May, 2000. Brad was recently commissioned by a patron of the Academy to do a painting of the Connecticut State Capitol Building which will become the Governor's Small Business Award for 1999.

The Lyme Academy values the special relationship it has with the community and seeks to fulfill its mission to preserve and promote the classical traditions in the fine arts in a number of ways which serve to enrich the cultural and educational life of the region. In addition to the full and part-time BFA degree program, the Lyme Academy offers:

- *The Open Community Program for non-matriculated students of all ages;*
- *Young Artists Workshops;*
- *ArtReach Scholarship Program for talented but economically disadvantaged young people from elementary through high school age;*
- *Distinguished Visiting Artist Lecture Series;*
- *Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series;*
- *Student Community Service Programs in regional public schools;*
- *Trips and Tours Program;*
- *Ten public exhibitions annually in the historic Sill House Gallery which represent the best in contemporary figurative and representational work.*

". . . at the heart of the matter of what art and artists bring to this particular nation . . . is their unique capacity to transcend differences, to make connections, to create community. In this most precious work, art has no equal."

Elizabeth Coleman,
President, Bennington College

The Lyme Academy continues to build on a tradition of service to the community.

It is difficult to predict the full impact the Lyme Academy will have on the future of the fine arts in America. It is, however, certain that the Academy is the standard-bearer in the field of classical fine arts education. What happens at the Lyme Academy in the next decade will significantly influence what happens in the world of contemporary representational and figurative art. It is therefore imperative that the Lyme Academy continue to be able to provide a meaningful segment of American artists with the kind of challenging education which will enable them not only to articulate our culture, but to give shape, substance, and significance to that culture.

THE FUTURE OF NEW ENGLAND'S ONLY FINE ARTS COLLEGE

In order to secure the future of the classical fine arts in America and to meet the needs of its growing student population, the Lyme Academy must expand its campus. The Academy requires additional studios, classrooms, public galleries, and administrative spaces in order to provide a BFA education which meets the highest academic and artistic standards.

An intensive effort has been made by trustees, staff, faculty, and friends of the Lyme Academy to identify and plan for the future needs and growth of the college.



Chris Sanford '00 of Gales Ferry, CT works from l'écorché by 18th century French master Jean-Antoine Houdon.

This study has led to the identification of the following items as *essential* to the future of the Academy:

- **Endowment:** The foundation upon which the future of the College depends. Opportunities for endowment growth exist for scholarship, operations, and facilities.
- **Land:** Presently sited on a 4.25 acre cul-de-sac, the College needs room to grow. The acquisition of two parcels of adjacent land (28.3 acres) will link the Academy to an additional, presently inaccessible parcel of 13.5 acres, creating a 46 acre campus which will include and protect 20+ acres of wetland and provide a greenbelt bordering I-95.
- **Studio Spaces:** To meet the *current and planned* needs of its student body, to meet growing enrollment and maintain small studio class size, and to provide senior class artists with individual studio space for thesis work, the Academy must increase its available studio space.
- **Classroom Spaces:** To meet the minimum standards set forth by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and to provide the space necessary to have all liberal arts and science courses taught on campus.
- **Gallery Spaces:** To provide secure, long-term exhibition space for student, faculty, and visiting artist work. To provide the space, appropriate lighting, and climate control to establish and show a permanent collection of faculty, student, and alumni work.
- **Administrative Spaces:** In order to meet the standards and requirements of an accredited institution, the Academy must increase its administrative support staff and provide them with appropriate office space. The Academy has an immediate need for additional faculty and departmental offices.

As a result of this planning process, a long-term Master Campus Plan was recently developed with the professional assistance of campus architects Herbert Newman & Partners (New Haven). This plan reflects the special mission of the Academy, the traditions upon which the college is built, and the unique relationship the Lyme Academy enjoys with the community.

As we approach the new millennium, the Lyme Academy remains steadfast in its mission to champion the classical traditions of the fine arts as the foundation for a renaissance of American art in the 21st century.

In this wonderfully fast-paced, complex world of electronic communication and global internet access, we urge you to remember that it is the artist who creates and interprets human culture. It is the artist who gives concrete form to the values and beliefs of a society, who holds up the mirror of truth to our everyday lives so that we might see and understand ourselves more clearly. It is the artist who finally challenges us to seek and find the divine in our mundane activity and to delight in the quest for excellence in our lives.

BUILDING A COLLEGE: A Unique Opportunity

As a leader in the world of art education, the Academy encourages its student artists to bring intelligence, passion, and creativity to bear upon each drawing, each painting, each sculpture by providing them with an education firmly rooted in the rigorous disciplines and traditions of western civilization. With its emphasis on studio work, the Academy seeks to create an environment which encourages individual creativity and personal responsibility



Academy students engage in studio critique.

through the profoundly difficult act of making the not-yet-seen and the not-yet-known.

The renowned Martha Graham, considered by many to be the founder of modern dance, would not allow dancers into her professional company unless they had a minimum of 7 years of classical ballet training. "How can they fly," Ms. Graham would ask, "if they don't know how to walk?" The Lyme Academy shares this philosophy.

The Lyme Academy of Fine Arts is rare in the world of higher education and in the education of artists. It is rare and it is important. We invite you to join with us today in building the future of this unique school — a future which is firmly rooted in tradition. The traditions of the Renaissance master artists, the great European Academies of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and the Old Lyme School of American Impressionists all create the foundation of this extraordinary school.

We ask you to stand with us to build on these traditions and bring the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts confidently and securely into the next century.



Graduation 1997. First row (l to r): Sharon Hunter, Vice President Academic Affairs; Commencement Speaker Governor John G. Rowland; Diana Atwood Johnson, Chairman of the Board; and Academy President Henry E. Putsch.

LYME ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

New England's Fine Arts College

Henry E. Putsch, President & CEO

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Shannon Printing, Deep River

Great nations write their biographies
in three manuscripts —
the book of their deeds, the book of their words,
and the book of their art.
Of the three the only trustworthy one
is the book of their art.

John Ruskin
1819-1900



FIGURE DRAWING
22" x 17"
Charcoal on paper
John Hart '99



LYME ACADEMY OF FINE ART

Herbert S. Newman and Partners, Architects, P.C.









LYME ACADEMY
OF FINE ARTS

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